

We claim:

1. A currency operated liquid dispensing machine for liquid retained in a  
5 plurality of removable and replaceable containers such as carboys or bags, said liquid dispensing machine comprising:
  - a cabinet;
  - a suitably selected holder housed in the cabinet, for releasably retaining the plurality of containers;
  - 10 a furcated passage comprising a main passage, an open end to define an outlet and a plurality of branches, each terminating in an inlet, said furcated passage to permit fluid communication between the plurality of containers and said outlet,
    - said outlet being in communication with the ambient atmosphere, said outlet located to permit feeding of the liquid from the containers to said outlet,
    - 15 a plurality of terminally located liquid dispensing systems for releasably coupling said inlet to a container to permit the flow of liquid;
    - a dispensing valve to stop and start the flow of liquid;
    - a controller to determine the flow of liquid through said furcated passage and to selectively actuate said dispensing valve; and
    - 20 a currency acceptor and processor for communication with said controller,
    - wherein liquid is dispensed from said currency operated liquid dispensing machine in a metered volume in response to input of a selected value of currency.
2. The dispensing machine of claims 1 further comprising a pump to urge the  
25 liquid from the containers to the outlet.
3. The dispensing machine of claim 2, wherein each branch has a solenoid valve in communication with said controller to control the flow of liquid.
- 30 4. The dispensing machine of claim 3 wherein said main branch comprises a manifold.
5. The dispensing machine of claim 4, further comprising a gas exchanger for gaseous exchange between the ambient atmosphere and the containers.

6. The dispensing means of claim 5 wherein said gas exchanger comprises a filter unit.

7. The dispensing machine of claim 4, wherein said liquid dispensing system  
5 comprises a penetrater and a coupler.

8. The dispensing machine of claim 7, wherein said controller is comprised of a flow monitor.

10 9. The dispensing machine of claim 8 wherein said flow monitor is located in line with said main passage.

10. The dispensing machine of claim 9 wherein said flow monitor is integral with said pump.  
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11. The dispensing machine of claim 9 wherein said flow monitor is located in parallel to said main passage.

12. The dispensing machine of claim 7, wherein said controller comprises a  
20 timer.

13. The dispenser of claim 10, wherein said controller is in electronic communication with said monitor.

25 14. The dispensing machine of claim 13, wherein said currency acceptor and processor is in electrical communication with said controller.

15. The dispensing machine of claim 14, further comprising a surge buffer, said surge buffer located to dampen surging of the liquid from said outlet.  
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16. The dispensing machine of claim 15, wherein said dispensing valve is a check valve.

17. The dispensing machine of claim 16, wherein the holder comprises an at  
35 least one rack for releasably retaining the containers.

18. The dispensing machine of claim 17 further comprising a collar for receiving each container.

5 19. The dispensing machine of claim of claim 18 wherein said cabinet is refrigerated.

20. The dispensing machine of claim 19 further comprising a counterbalance.

10 21. The dispensing machine of claim 20 further comprising a water presence sensor.

22. The dispensing machine of claim 19 further comprising an alarm system to indicate when said dispensing machine is empty.

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23. The dispensing machine of claim 22 wherein said rack is a shelf that is rotatably mounted to said cabinet to permit swinging of said shelf.

20 24. The dispensing machine of claim 23 wherein said pump is a peristaltic pump.

25. The dispensing machine of claim 24 further comprising a bottle presence sensor.

25 26. The dispensing machine of claim 1 wherein the branches of the furcated passage are in series, such that in use, one container is substantially drained before the next container begins to drain.

27. The dispensing machine of any one of claims 1 to 26, wherein said outlet  
30 is located to permit gravity feeding of the liquid from the containers to said outlet.